CORE

The Voice of Mineral Exploration

Summer 2018

PDAC 2018 Convention
Regaining Our Swagger

IMPROVING GENDER DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IN THE MINERAL SECTOR

IN CONVERSATION WITH PDAC'S MARY-CLAIRE WARD AWARD WINNER

BILL C-69: PROPOSED CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT PROCESS

PDAC
PROSPECTORS & DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

CORE

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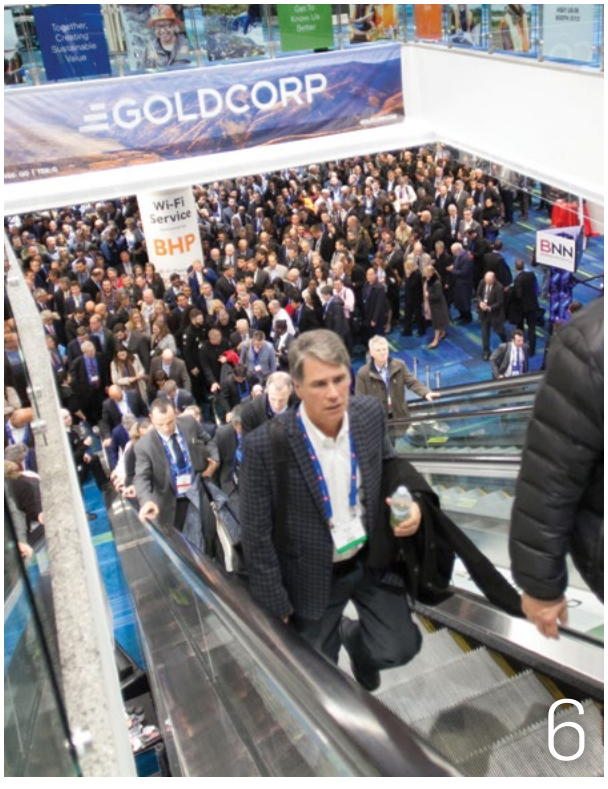

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Editorial
Produced by PDAC's Communications Department

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Cameron Ainsworth-Vincze

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Kristy Kenny

CONTRIBUTORS
Glenn Mullan, Lisa McDonald, Lesley Williams, Nicole Sampson, Sherry Dickert, Luka Stevanovic, Florence MacLeod, Melanie Wallace, Jeff Killeen

DESIGN
Hambly & Woolley Inc.

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ON THE COVER: PDAC President Glenn Mullan speaking at the Awards Gala at the PDAC 2018 Convention

INSIDE COVER: Eric Thiessen, winner of the Mary-Claire Ward award, mapping in northeast British Columbia

135 King Street East
Toronto ON
M5C 1G6
416 362 1969

INDUSTRY NEWS

GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES CANADIAN OMBUDSPERSON FOR RESPONSIBLE ENTERPRISE

The Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Canada's Minister of International Trade, announced the creation of the Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Enterprise (CORE), as well as the establishment of a Multi-stakeholder Advisory Body to advise the Government and the CORE on responsible business conduct abroad. PDAC believes that to be effective, the ombudsperson must be designed in a way that both enables effective dispute resolution while maintaining the competitiveness of responsible Canadian companies operating abroad.

New search tool in Ontario for health and safety

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board of Ontario has launched a new search tool, Compass. For the first time, Ontarians can find and compare health and safety statistics for businesses across the province. The tool will bring greater transparency to workplace safety in the province, giving people the ability to find health and safety statistics for any workplace, in addition to comparing statistics among businesses.

Greenhouse Gas Pollution Pricing Act

The Federal Government released draft legislation related to the proposed federal carbon pricing system. This 'federal backstop' will apply to all jurisdictions that have not developed their own approach to carbon pricing for implementation by September 2018. The draft legislation states that companies that exceed the average energy use for production in their sector will be required to pay a carbon levy, while those that stay under the average energy use by **30 PER CENT** or more will get a credit for saving energy. Provinces and territories have until September 1 to decide whether they will develop their own system or adopt the federal backstop.

NRCan's CLEAN GROWTH PROGRAM

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Canada's Office of Energy Research and Development (OERD) have launched the Clean Growth Program (CGP). The CGP provides **$155 MILLION** for clean technology research and development, and demonstration projects in Canada's energy, mining and forestry sectors. The aim is to advance emerging clean technologies toward commercial readiness so that natural resource operations can reduce their impacts on air, land, and water, while enhancing competitiveness and creating jobs.

FEDERAL BUDGET 2018

In its 2018 Budget, the Federal Government committed to renewing the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit (METC) for one year. PDAC provided several recommendations for the budget, including a three-year extension of the METC. This recommendation was also made by the House Standing Committee on Finance (FINA) in its report to the Minister of Finance. Although disappointed that it was not included, PDAC will continue to advocate on behalf of the industry for a multi-year METC. Investments in areas such as Indigenous skills training and employment, as well as advancements for women entrepreneurs, were also included in the budget.

Spotlight on responsible business practices abroad

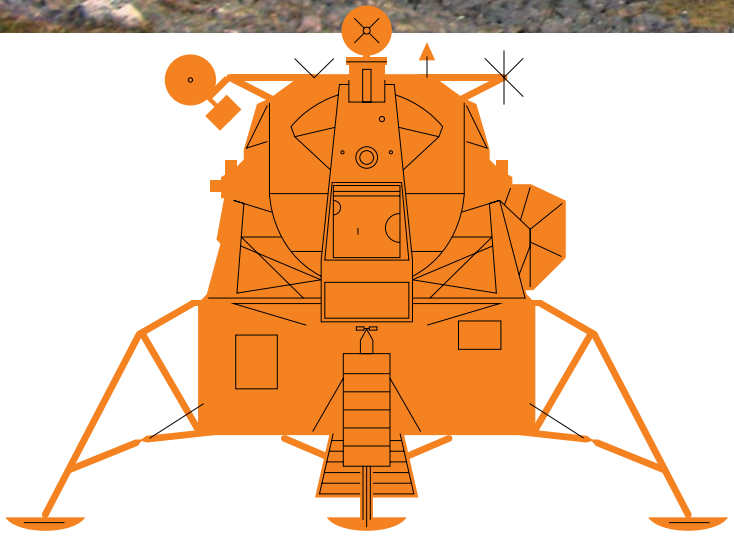
Canada's Trade Commissioner Service (TCS) released a new guide, *Spotlight on Social Responsibility*, to help Canadian companies operating abroad better understand how they can contribute to positive social, environmental and economic outcomes in the markets where they operate.

INDUSTRY NEWS

CANADIAN MINERALS AND METALS PLAN
Government officials have started collecting input on the development of a Canadian Minerals and Metals Plan (CMMP). An initiative established by federal, provincial and territorial Ministers responsible for mining last August, the CMMP aims to enhance Canada's position as a global mining leader and to lay the foundation for long-term success of the sector. A Discussion Paper has been developed by government to elicit feedback on potential elements of the Plan.

Shaping the next generation of mining

Employers can receive up to **$7,000** to fund a new co-op, internship, or field placement for students, as part of the Government of Canada's **$7.8 MILLION** in funding to the Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR)'s Gearing Up: Developing Mining Talent Through Work-Integrated Learning project.



First trillionaire will be space miner

The next trillion-dollar industry will be in the mining sector, and the world's first trillionaire will make his/her fortune by mining in outer space, according to Goldman Sachs. The prediction is supported by renowned astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson: "The first trillionaire there will ever be is the person who exploits the natural resources on asteroids." More than 12,000 asteroids, which are within approximately 45 million km of our planet, have already been identified by NASA. Geologists believe they are packed with iron ore, nickel, and precious metals at much higher concentrations than those found on Earth.

MINERAL INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES
PDAC appeared before the Standing Committee on Indigenous and Northern Affairs (INAN) in April to share information about the many positive, mutually-beneficial partnerships between the mineral industry and Indigenous communities in Canada, as well as our industry's leadership in Indigenous engagement. A strong and globally competitive Canadian exploration and mining sector will be well-positioned to deliver local, regional and national benefits—the cornerstone to this is partnerships with Indigenous communities.

GOVERNMENT RESOURCE REVENUE SHARING

PDAC applauded the signing of government resource revenue sharing agreements between Ontario and Grand Council Treaty #3, Wabun Tribal Council and Mushkegowuk Council in May. PDAC has long advocated for governments to share a portion of revenues derived from natural resources extraction with Aboriginal communities through Government Resource Revenue Sharing (GRRS) mechanisms.

STATE OF MINERAL FINANCE REPORT

PDAC released its *State of Mineral Finance 2018: Gaining Momentum* report in June detailing financing dynamics for the mineral exploration and mining industry since 2011. The report underscores how financing and activity levels within the mineral industry have followed commodity price trends, improving in recent years from low points reached in 2015. However, despite apparent improvements, both financing opportunities and activity levels remain well below peaks realized in 2011 and recovery across the industry has been uneven.

NEW LEGISLATIVE CHANGES INTRODUCED

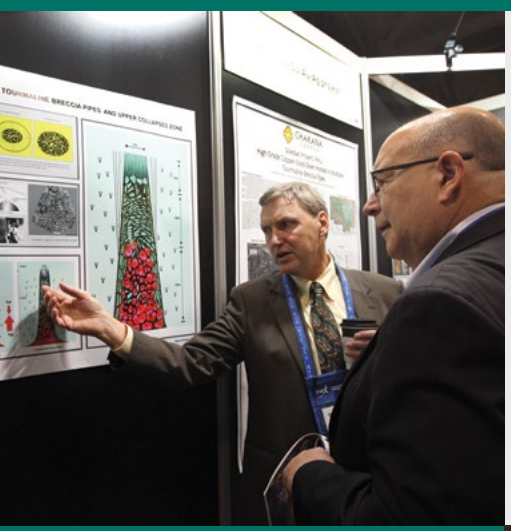
Bill C-68

- The Federal Government tabled Bill C-68, *An Act to amend the Fisheries Act and other Acts in consequence* (Bill C-68). The Bill includes provisions related to prohibitions, authorizations and designated projects, and Indigenous peoples, among others. In a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans, PDAC requested three amendments to the legislation regarding transitional provisions, designated projects and habitat banks. PDAC has also provided commentary on some key provisions proposed in the Bill.

Bill C-69

- The Federal Government also introduced Bill C-69—*An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act, and to make consequential amendments to other Acts* (Bill C-69)—to replace the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA 2012). PDAC made a written submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) regarding Bill C-69, requesting two amendments: **1)** Projects currently being assessed under CEAA 2012, or those entering the process prior to IAA coming into force, be allowed to continue under CEAA 2012 unless requested otherwise; **2)** Uranium mines and mills should undergo Agency assessments with full access to provisions for cooperation with provinces and Indigenous groups. PDAC also commented on some of the key provisions outlined in the Bill.
- PDAC appeared before ENVI in March to discuss the potential implications of the *Impact Assessment Act* for the mineral sector, and will continue to work with government and partners to ensure review processes are clear, timely, consistent, inclusive and transparent, and support Canada's mineral industry competitiveness.

PDAC 2018 Convention:
Regaining swagger, building momentum



For the first time in four years, the PDAC Convention exceeded 25,000 attendees—a clear sign that the mineral exploration and mining industry has regained its swagger and is building momentum. The PDAC 2018 Convention—the world's premier mineral exploration and mining event—attracted investors, analysts, mining executives, prospectors, geologists, government officials and students from a record 135 countries. "The 86th edition of the PDAC Convention was full of energy and excitement for the year ahead," says PDAC President Glenn Mullan, referring to sold out exhibitor space, panel discussions, courses, workshops, and networking events such as the prestigious Awards Gala. "After experiencing several years of economic challenges, today the mineral exploration and mining industry is enjoying a renaissance and renewed sense of confidence."

SAVE
THE DATE
PDAC 2019
MARCH 3-6

PDAC 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- PDAC, in partnership with the World Economic Forum, hosted the International Mines Ministers' Summit (IMMS) for the third year, bringing together 26 Ministers responsible for mining from around the world—the largest turnout to date. This year's summit focused on the various ways in which trust can be fostered to enhance and expand the contributions that the sector has on the prosperity and development of nations.

- PDAC hosted nearly 30 Canadian federal, provincial and territorial government officials over the four-day convention—a reflection of the association's significant leadership role in Canada.

- An outstanding Technical Program featured Tito Martins (Nexa Resources S.A.) who led the *Commodities and market outlook session*; Daniel Malchuk (Minerals Americas, BHP), Sean Roosen (Osisko Gold Royalties) and Anna Tudela (Goldcorp Inc.) spoke during the *Keynote session: Industry Review—Lessons for the future*.

- Over 1,000 exhibitors participated in the Trade Show, Trade Show North, Investors Exchange, Mining Marketplace, Core Shack and Prospectors Tent.

- The sold out Mineral Outlook Luncheon featuring A. Gary Shilling—best-selling author, economic consultant, and investment adviser—discussed *Opportunities for the mining and metals industry in an excess supply world*.

- Many Short Courses were sold out! Twelve courses were offered on a range of topics, including environmental geological models of mineral deposits (Society of Economic Geologists), mineral resource estimation (Roscoe Postle Associates Inc.), and Precambrian gold deposits (Mineral Exploration Research Centre, Laurentian University). Other course themes included minimizing environmental impacts, mining financial modelling, geochemistry, geophysics, health and safety, avoiding the legal pitfalls of working in South America, peer review and technical audits, NI 43-101, and the application of artificial intelligence and machine learning (Decennial Mineral Exploration Conferences).

- Attendees enjoyed continuous networking opportunities—700 people celebrated at the sold out Awards Gala & After Party where leaders in seven categories were honoured in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the minerals and mining industry, and the Grand Finale brought attendees together to celebrate the success of PDAC 2018.

PROGRAMS

A highlight of the PDAC Convention was the **Aboriginal Program** that once again brought the mineral sector together with Aboriginal communities and companies to exchange ideas, share information and network, while also serving as an important platform for fostering cooperative, respectful and mutually-beneficial relationships between Aboriginal communities and industry. The 2018 Aboriginal Program consisted of four sessions:

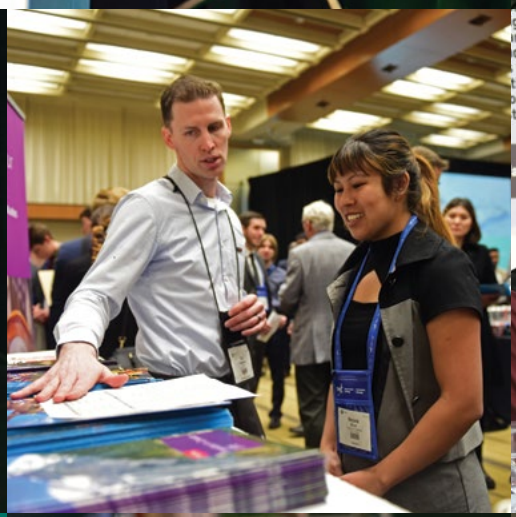
1. *The mineral industry and Indigenous communities: Canadian and international experiences*
2. *The Aboriginal Forum*
   - *UNDRIP implementation: Opportunities and implications in Canada*
   - *Economic development and the environment: Finding the balance*
3. *Indigenous law and regulatory frameworks: The evolving landscape*
4. *Building partnerships: Indigenous communities and the mineral industry*

For the ninth consecutive year the **CSR Event Series** featured presentations and panel discussions highlighting key aspects of sustainable development, social and environmental performance. Over 600 attendees took part at PDAC 2018 with sessions focusing on such topics as: enhancements to regional development; collaboration on climate change; integrating gender diversity in the mining system; and innovations for effective site level grievance and feedback management.

With increasing investor confidence surfacing across the mineral industry, the **Capital Markets Program** provided attendees with discussions and expert analysis on the latest economic developments shaping the mineral sector. Sessions focused on an array of topics, including: three sessions on exploration and mining financing; resource valuation, innovation and its value on shareholders; and a Munk-style debate on the pros and cons of gold vs. bitcoin that was streamed in real-time on PDAC's Facebook page and viewed over 174,000 times.

Nearly 1,350 students attended PDAC 2018 and took part in the **Student Program**, which continues to offer young professionals an opportunity to connect with industry leaders and peers from all over the world. The Student-Industry Forum explored how innovation is being applied to improve several key sectors, while the *Student geologist's guide to exploration & mining* course taught students how they can prepare to enter the industry. Students also had access to an array of networking sessions and events, including the Student-Industry Networking Luncheon, Survival Skills workshop, and the new Flash Mentoring event that provided students with an opportunity to sit down in person and discuss their career objectives with leading industry professionals. **c**

PDAC 2018 CONVENTION STATISTICS



TRADE SHOW & TRADE SHOW NORTH

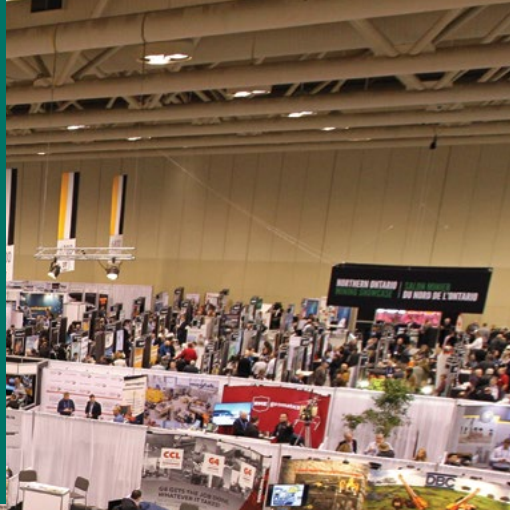
869 Booths

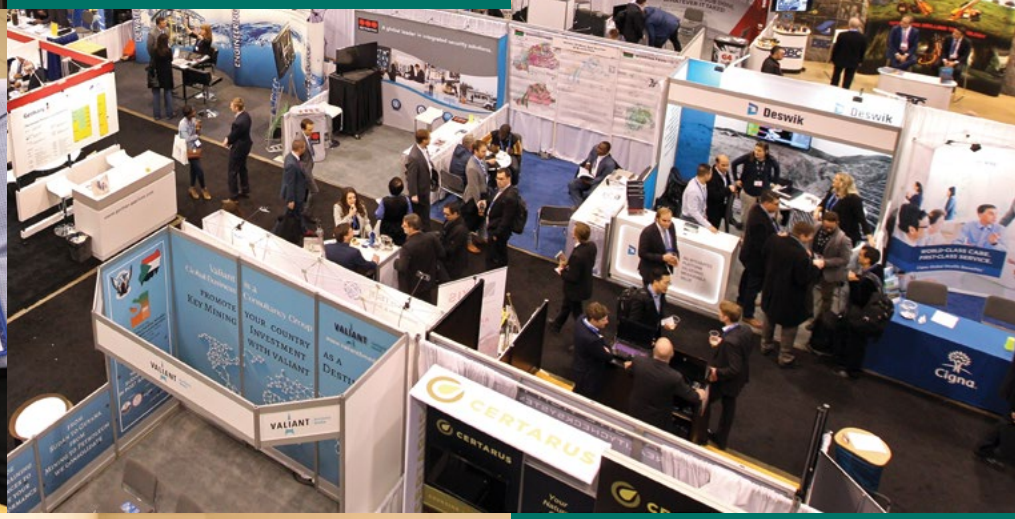
481 Exhibitors
68 Governments

25,606 Convention Attendees

Outside of Canada the largest number of attendees came from: **USA, Australia, United Kingdom, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, Germany, China, Finland**

28.9%	International Attendees
135	Countries Represented
1,348	Students
525	Self-Identified Aboriginal Attendees
48	Sponsors



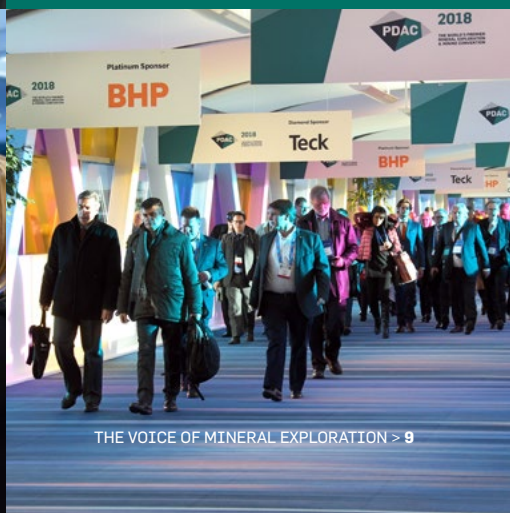


CORE SHACK

40 Exhibitors

MINING MARKETPLACE

20 Exhibitors



PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

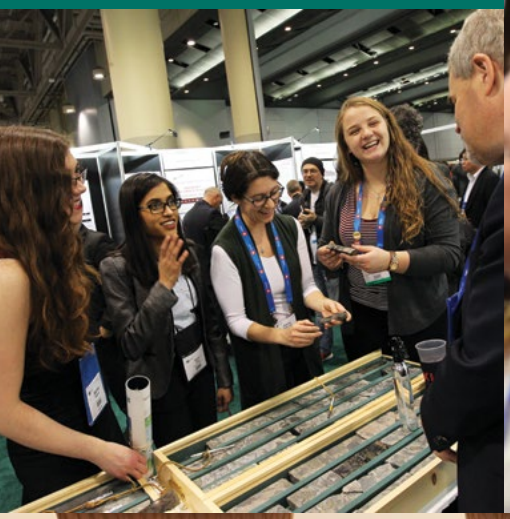
19 Technical Sessions
12 Short Courses
37 Presentation Rooms & Reception Rooms
119 Corporate Presentation Forum for Investors Presentations
556 Speakers

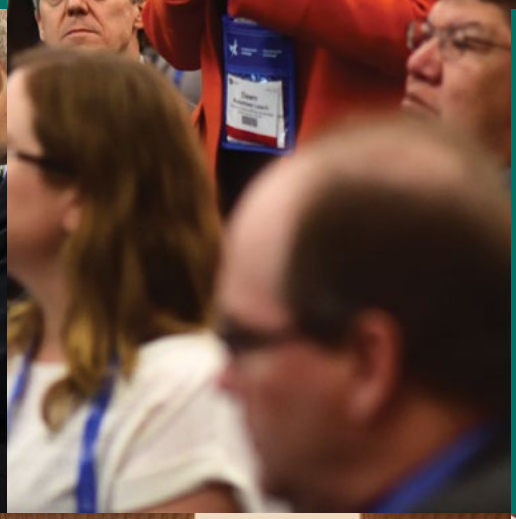
INVESTORS EXCHANGE

518 Booths

486 Exhibitors
13 Prospector Tents

3,495
INVESTORS





MEDIA & MEDIA PARTNERS

340

300	Articles covering PDAC 2018
30+ million	Reach of articles mentioning PDAC
25,000+	Tweets related to convention
20,000+	Tweets used #PDAC2018
174,000+	Gold vs Bitcoin live debate viewed on Facebook

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Q&A

IN CONVERSATION WITH ERIC THIESSEN

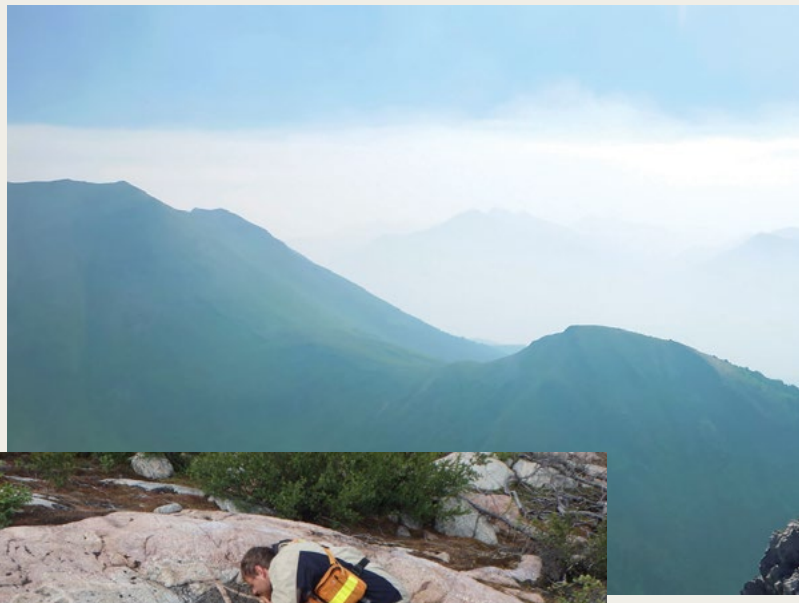
Eric Thiessen of Simon Fraser University is this year's recipient of the Mary-Claire Ward Geoscience Award. The award was created to honour the memory of Mrs. Ward who passed away in 2004. At the time of her death she was the Chair of PDAC's Geoscience Committee, Chairman of Watts Griffis and McOuat Ltd., and a Past President of the Geological Association of Canada. She was a passionate advocate for the geosciences in Canada, and the award is a fitting tribute to her dedication and work in the geosciences field.

Consisting of $5,000 and a certificate, the award strives to encourage and support a graduate student in Canada whose thesis aims to increase our knowledge of the geological history of Canada through mapping.

Eric's thesis investigates the Paleoproterozoic tectono-metamorphic evolution of the south Rae craton in southeastern NWT. This work entails regional and detailed bedrock mapping, structural, metamorphic and isotopic analyses of multiple deformed terranes and crustal-scale shear zones. The study will evaluate the nature of metamorphism and exhumation, which may be influenced by the Snowbird tectonic zone, Taltson magmatic zone and/or the Trans-Hudson orogen between 2.0 and 1.8 Ga.

Q&A

Eric (left) and Edith Martel of the Northwest Territories Geological Survey (right) sampling shear zones



Eric (top) and supervisor Sally Pehrsson of the Geological Survey of Canada (bottom) examining outcrops in NWT

Q What sparked your interest in geology and motivated you to pursue a career in the sector?

While I was undertaking a biology degree at Queen's University, one of my elective courses was through the geology department. Like a seasoned storyteller, the instructor, Dr. Guy Narbonne, explained the interaction and evolution of Earth and its biota from 4.5 billion years ago to the present. I was hooked.

My motivation to work in the sector was the combination of hands-on field investigations in remote locations, coupled with my fascination with understanding geological process.

Q Tell us a bit about your education background and how you ended up at Simon Fraser University?

My Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree was at Queen's University in Ontario, which was an excellent place to study geology. I became interested in ore deposits while working with Dr. Dan Layton-Matthews on an undergraduate thesis project that examined sulfide chemistry from seafloor vent deposits. In 2013, I completed a Master of Science (MSc) degree with Dr. Sarah Gleeson at the University of Alberta where I worked on understanding the formation of a hydrothermal gold deposit in central Yukon. I soon after moved to Vancouver and worked exploring for Zn-Pb deposits in northeastern British Columbia. I was very interested in working on larger-scale regional projects from a structural and tectonics perspective, and so in 2015 I started my PhD with Dr. Dan Gibson at Simon Fraser University and Dr. Sally Pehrsson of the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC).

Q What do you enjoy the most about working in the field and what has been your favourite location?

As someone who loves the outdoors, being able to work in the remote wilderness of northern Canada is a special experience. One of the main draws to geology is understanding fundamental field relationships that are the foundation of the science. Thus, I enjoy working out complex problems in the company of great people, and having a break from the office. My favourite locations are the Yukon for its scenery and the Northwest Territories (NWT) tundra for the amazing geology.

Fieldwork in northeast British Columbia

Q What was your reaction when you won the Mary-Claire Ward award?
When I first received the announcement, I was excited to hear I had won. Just as importantly, the list of past recipients includes excellent geoscientists that I have a lot of respect for, so to be a part of that group is a tremendous honour.

Eric (right) and supervisor Dan Gibson of Simon Fraser University (left) doing fieldwork at Wholdaia Lake NWT

Q How many times have you been to the PDAC Convention and what do you enjoy about the event?
This was my third time attending PDAC. The first two times I was job hunting as an undergraduate student, which given the size of the conference and being new in the industry was somewhat intimidating. The conference size, however, is incredible for being able to keep in touch and interact with individuals in the mining and exploration sector, the geological surveys, and academic institutions from around the world.

Q In looking down the road, where do you see yourself in five to 10 years?
I intend to continue working towards better understanding the geological complexity in Canada through field and research-based studies. It would be great to find work with a geological survey or academic institution where I can also be a part of educating the next generation and passing on my own experiences and enthusiasm for this type of work.

Q What would be your dream job?
Field-based geoscience research (academic, survey, industry). c

Improving Gender Diversity and Inclusion

How PDAC is contributing to industry efforts to move the needle on gender diversity and inclusion in the mineral sector

BY MELANIE WALLACE

There is a transformative shift taking place within our society. Conversations about diversity and inclusion are gaining traction—and people are turning words into action.

As the business case for diversity and inclusion becomes clearer, this transformation is permeating the consciousness of decision makers and leaders of Canada's industrial sectors, including the mineral industry. Increasingly, mineral exploration and mining companies are recognizing that the makeup of their company needs to reflect the diverse communities in which they operate.

Part and parcel of this conversation is the notion that companies should strive to include the voices of underrepresented groups in their community engagement efforts, and in all aspects of project development, to ensure that the benefits of exploration and mining-related activities are shared equally among community members. While progress is being made, there is more work to be done.

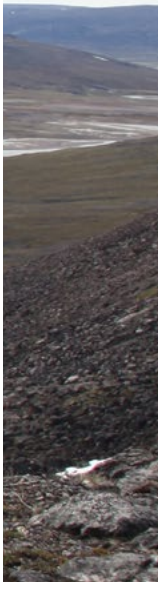
Research by Canada's Mining Industry Human Resources Council (MiHR) has shown that women, Aboriginal peoples, and immigrants remain the most underutilized populations in Canada's minerals and metals sector. Such an underrepresentation not only ignores a vast pool of talent and skill sets, it is potentially crippling to the future success of our sector because it means we are not capitalizing on the known benefits of diversity at a time when the acquisition of skilled talent is becoming critical. In 2015, MiHR estimated that our sector would require between 86,000 and 126,000 workers between 2016 and 2025. With nearly 600,000 workers currently working in the sector—both directly and indirectly—that equates to a staggering one-fifth of our workforce needing to be replaced within less than a decade.

Moreover, global studies demonstrate a positive relationship between diversity and business performance. For example, we know that companies with executive teams in the top quartile for gender diversity outperform on profitability and value creation, according to McKinsey and Company. It is also well-known that inclusive engagement—that is, seeking input from underrepresented groups—can help to strengthen projects and maximize community benefits, while a failure to do so can perpetuate existing inequalities.

When it comes to the representation of women, our industry lags behind other natural resources industries. According to MiHR, only 17% of jobs in the mineral industry in Canada are occupied by women, compared to over 25% in oil and gas, and the utilities industry. In efforts to tip the scales, exploration and mining companies have been actively righting the ship through the implementation of enterprise-wide diversity and inclusion strategies. These strategies range from setting gender-equity quotas (e.g. BHP Billiton's pledge to achieve gender parity by 2025) to programs that empower, train and provide mentorship opportunities for women (e.g. Goldcorp's Creating Choices program). Additionally, medium and small-sized companies, like Toronto-based Sherritt International Corporation, are also making strides. In 2017, Sherritt struck a global Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee, whose membership includes CEO, David Pathe, and representatives from all of Sherritt's divisions.

For those who understand the business case but are not sure where to go next, PDAC is developing new guidance for *e3 Plus: A Framework for Responsible Exploration*, one of the cornerstone corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives, around diversity and inclusion—beginning with gender. First developed in 2003, *e3: Excellence in Environmental Exploration* was supplemented in 2009 with additional guidance around social and health and safety performance, and subsequently renamed *e3 Plus*. In 2014, *e3 Plus* was enhanced further through the development of a chapter on community engagement.

The purpose of this new chapter on diversity and inclusion is to provide guidance for exploration and mining companies on how to: 1) foster a more diverse and inclusive workplace; and 2) exercise more inclusive engagement with communities in order to ensure mining-related activities benefit everyone, regardless of gender. Given the complexity of topics around diversity and inclusion, the chapter aims to raise awareness of the issues, provide key definitions, and set the context for why this type of engagement is important. The guidance will shed light on the barriers to both diverse and inclusive workplaces, as well as inclusive engagement in communities, and provide opportunities for change drawing on case studies and other tools for inspiration.



Diversity, of course, is not limited to gender, and gender is not limited to women and men. This is a reality that will be highlighted in the association's guidance. However, given that the preponderance of research on the subject of diversity and inclusion has focused on women and men, PDAC's work will naturally highlight these inequalities while striving to provide guidance that is inclusive of all, regardless of self-identification.

In order to execute this project, PDAC has assembled a multi-stakeholder advisory group comprised of 25 to 30 industry leaders, all of whom have industry and/or community engagement experience. A draft version of the guidance is expected to be completed by early 2019. In addition to supporting the development of the guidance, the advisory group is also intended to serve as a platform for knowledge-sharing on topics that are important to advancing the dialogue around diversity and inclusion in the mineral sector.

This initiative, aimed directly at eliminating barriers to diversity and inclusion, is a key project for PDAC in this area—and will not be our last. In 2017, the PDAC Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan for the organization, which identified "ensuring the mineral industry has access to an inclusive, diverse, skilled workforce" as a strategic priority. This means that over the next several years, PDAC will prioritize projects that move the needle on diversity and inclusion.

As an association focused on ensuring that our industry remains strong, responsible and competitive, PDAC is committed to helping our members recognize the value in diversity and inclusion, while offering guidance on how to achieve it—both internally with their own employees, and externally with the people with whom they interact. Matters of diversity and inclusion are multi-faceted and complex, and change takes time. But as an industry, we are showing openness to diversity and inclusion that is unprecedented. Getting this right today is imperative for ensuring that future generations reap the many benefits that our sector provides. **c**

Melanie Wallace is PDAC's Analyst, Sustainable Development & International Affairs

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From environmental assessment to impact assessment, Bill C-69 will alter how projects are reviewed in this country.

BY LESLEY WILLIAMS

Changes are coming to the way in which projects are reviewed in Canada. With the introduction of Bill C-69—the proposed *Impact Assessment Act (IAA)*—the current assessment process under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012)* will undergo a significant transformation. Tabled by government in February, and currently moving through the parliamentary process, the Bill could come into force as early as next year.

The proposed IAA will introduce a number of different elements to the assessment process that will impact the mineral sector. Notably, the scope of the project review will be expanded from assessing how a project could affect the environment to including an assessment of social, economic and health impacts.

In addition to the expanded scope of reviews, a single federal Agency would lead all impact assessments for designated projects, as opposed to three separate authorities currently operating under *CEAA 2012*. There will also be a mandatory early planning and engagement phase designed to develop tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, as well as specific plans for Indigenous engagement and partnership, public participation, and permitting.

The IAA includes provisions to enhance participation by Indigenous peoples in the assessment process, including the mandatory incorporation of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. Among other changes, there are plans for a new online Impact Assessment Registry that would contain additional information on projects, decisions and regulatory processes.

Regulatory matters play a significant role in determining investment decisions—those made by investors about where to invest in projects, and by companies about where to explore and mine. Investment, both foreign and domestic, is particularly sensitive to legislative and policy changes as such changes often generate uncertainty and unpredictability. There are a number of unknown factors related to the proposed IAA, particularly in relation to the implementation of key provisions. Therefore, an unpredictable, complex and inefficient regulatory regime that is not well implemented will increase risk and deter investment.

PDAC has engaged government throughout the review of environmental and regulatory processes to offer direction and guidance for ensuring that legislative and regulatory changes do not negatively impact investment in the mineral sector and diminish Canada's competitiveness on the global stage.

Following the tabling of Bill C-69, PDAC provided a written submission to, and appeared before, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) during its study of the legislation. PDAC identified the potential for Bill C-69 to improve on some of the challenges experienced by the mineral sector from the existing *CEAA 2012* legislation. In principle, and if implemented effectively, the IAA could support a robust and efficient assessment process for the mineral sector. However, this is largely dependent upon the adoption of key amendments and the implementation of the IAA, which will be determined through the development of forthcoming regulations. PDAC proposed the following amendments and will continue to engage with government throughout this process.

Amendments Proposed

PDAC asked government to make two amendments to the legislation that are of critical importance to the mineral industry. These are related to:

Transition: projects currently undergoing assessment by the Agency under the current Act (CEAA 2012), or those that will enter the process before the coming into force of the IAA, must be allowed to continue under CEAA 2012 unless the proponent requests a transition to the new IAA.

Uranium mines and mills: similar to any other designated mining project, designated projects that are uranium mines and mills should undergo Agency assessments with full access to provisions for cooperation with provinces and Indigenous groups.

Key Provisions

Along with amendments, PDAC provided comments on key provisions in Bill C-69 as important regulatory and policy decisions remain to be developed with regards to the implementation of the IAA. These provisions will establish important details that could materially influence the cost, time and complexity of the assessment process for project proponents. Some of the areas of potential concern include:

- **COST RECOVERY**
  Cost recovery fees must be reasonable and not duplicative with fees for other permitting processes, recognizing that such costs can be prohibitive for small, non-revenue generating junior exploration companies. At a minimum, these fees should: have a clear, predictable, reasonable, set fee per assessment; be linked to various guarantees, including timeliness of process; and, exclude "out of scope" costs such as policy development or regional assessments.

- **EXPANDING FACTORS TO BE ASSESSED**
  An expanded assessment process will require very clear, transparent guidance for companies, Indigenous peoples, communities and regulators on the factors and effects that will be considered. Such guidance must clearly delineate the impacts that will be considered, the methodologies for the ways in which these elements will be studied, and the weighting of impacts against each other.

- **EARLY PLANNING AND ENGAGEMENT PHASE**
  If designed and implemented well, the new planning could provide greater clarity for proponents and predictability for the process. However, the Planning Phase must include a clearly defined Crown consultation plan, the ability for proponents to amend their projects based on Indigenous and community feedback without resetting the IA process, and an emphasis on the development of permitting plans.

- **PROJECT LIST**
  The development of a revised Project List must ensure major projects with the greatest potential impacts in areas of federal jurisdiction are included—based on actual, known potential for impact.

- **LEGISLATED TIMELINES**
  Legislated timelines must be adhered to, as well as adjustable for cooperation with other jurisdictions. Clearly defined timelines are essential for the certainty proponents and investors require—leading to a predictable, timely process.

- **CROWN CONSULTATION**
  A clear, transparent Crown consultation process for project assessments must be developed so that the duty to consult and accommodate is adequately discharged. Government must also assess and outline its requirements for consultation and accommodation with Indigenous peoples, develop a transparent consultation plan that conforms to the tenets of consultation as articulated by the courts, and assume its responsibilities in the process, including related costs.

It is critical that forthcoming regulations and policies be developed carefully to achieve key objectives of the IAA, but also in a way that ensures the process is clear, predictable, timely and practical.

As the proposed IAA moves through the Parliamentary process, its full impact on the mineral sector remains to be seen, particularly as the eventual development of regulations and policies will determine how it will be implemented. Throughout the process, PDAC will continue to advocate on behalf of its members to ensure the mineral industry remains competitive. A strong and globally competitive Canadian exploration and mining sector will be well positioned to deliver local, regional and national benefits. This, in turn, requires an assessment process that is clear, predictable, efficient and balanced. **c**

Lesley Williams is PDAC's Director, Policy & Programs, Aboriginal & Regulatory Affairs, Sustainable Development & International Affairs

GOVERNMENT'S REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGULATORY PROCESSES

The Government of Canada has committed to making changes to major project reviews in Canada, including a review of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA). On behalf of the mineral exploration and development industry, PDAC has been engaged in the government's review in a number of ways:

- PDAC produced a submission in May 2017 in response to a report by the government's appointed Expert Panel, *Building Common Ground: A New Vision for Impact Assessment in Canada*
- PDAC made a submission in August 2017 on the government's *Discussion Paper on Environmental and Regulatory Reviews*
- Following the tabling of Bill C-69, PDAC made a written submission to the Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development and appeared before the Committee on March 28, 2018
- PDAC has also been engaged in the government's review of the *Fisheries Act*

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